

Killer bees are within 30 miles of Utah border

Officials readying for Africanized strain to arrive

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By Linda Thomson
Deseret News business writer

The Africanized bee, commonly called the "killer bee," has been found within 30 miles of Utah's border along the Nevada state line — and Utah officials are taking steps to prepare for its eventual migration into the state.

No killer bees have been found in Utah as yet, according to Larry Lewis, spokesman for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

However, the bees' aggressiveness poses a threat to humans, livestock and pets and means that the state needs to take action. Lewis said indications are that between six and eight people have been killed by the bees in the United States.

News reports state that 1,000 people have been killed by Africanized bees in Central and South American and in Mexico, since they escaped in 1956 from a laboratory in Brazil.

In October, a Mesquite, Nev., public works employee was stung 17 times after disturbing a bee-



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George Botta of Nevada's agriculture board holds dustpan of "killer bees" after they killed a dog in Las Vegas.

hive that was inside a tree trunk. The Nevada Department of Agriculture has reported that tests conducted on bees collected after the stinging incident showed the bees to be Africanized honeybees.

The Utah department has issued a notice to southern Utah residents that it is highly likely that the bees could migrate to the state fairly soon.

BEES

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Lewis said the department plans to form a committee comprised of representatives from state agencies and local and state health and public safety entities to begin training sessions to help people respond to the bees.

"We'll be training firefighters (and others) on what to look for, how to react if called to an active sting or the discovery of a suspected hive. We're also putting together pamphlets that will go to a wide and broad audience starting in southern Utah and eventually, I would think, to the rest of the state," Lewis said.

Although these bees — which look almost identical to regular honeybees — are dangerous, there is no need to panic, Lewis said. In other states that have killer bees, such as Texas, people have just adapted to having a new pest around.

"The message from now on is that we must approach all bees with caution," Lewis said. "We're implementing a phrase, 'Bee smart — don't bug bees!' and a logo for our literature."

The bees are aggressive when defending their hives. In arid states, they often create hives in fairly unusual places, such as piles of tires, the sidings of houses, rock outcroppings, tree trunks or even underground.

"There is not a lot of cover for

them in the wild, so they're more likely to be in urbanized areas because of the shelter people afford them," Lewis said.

When the bees perceive that their hives are threatened, a number of them attack the intruder and can inflict many stings. Unlike wasps, an individual bee cannot keep stinging and stinging. Each bee can sting only once, but a great number of bee stings can be dangerous to humans or animals.

In the 1950s, a Brazilian scientist wanted to crossbreed the gentle, cold-weather honeybees brought to the Western Hemisphere by early European settlers with wild African honeybees.

The researcher hoped to develop a strain of bees suited to tropical climates like the African bees, except with a milder temperament. Instead, the African bees were accidentally released and thrived.

The literature that will be provided by the Agriculture Department will tell people who find questionable hives to call the local police department or extension office. Those agencies can recommend beekeepers who can destroy the hive.

"It's not like a wasp's nest that you can treat yourself. Do not try to treat it yourself," Lewis said. "Call an expert."

The department also is updating its Web site to provide information about this type of bee. The Web site is (www.ag.state.ut.us/).

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Godzilla back for new

By Linda Sieg
Reuters News Service

TOKYO — Fans of Japan's favorite movie monster Godzilla who mourned his demise and were put off by his slithery lizardlike U.S. reincarnation can take heart.

A resurrected version of the nuclear-spawned villain who first trampled his way through Tokyo 45 years ago will ring in the new millennium in a saga complete with a battle in Tokaimura — the site of Japan's worst-ever nuclear accident.

Sony TriStar's 1998 version of Godzilla, a taller and leaner computer-generated monster that zipped past New York City's skyscrapers at speeds the original could never match, disappointed many diehard fans.

"The U.S. version was a bit hard to digest as the real Godzilla," Toho Co's Takao Okawara, who directed the new "Godzilla 2000: Millennium" as well as the 1995 Toho film that recorded his ostensible extinction, told Reuters in an interview.

"It was too synthetic. The essence of Godzilla's real character is indestructibility," Okawara added. "So since we are starting a new series, we decided to show the proper Godzilla."

Godzilla, whose return to the screens premieres on Saturday at

the Tokyo International Film Festival, is an old hand in the resurrection business.

In the original black-and-white 1954 film, "Godzilla, King of the Monsters" was awakened from prehistoric slumber by U.S. atomic testing on Bikini atoll and went on a rampage of death and destruction that threatened to destroy Tokyo.

The movie, made only nine years after the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ended with the clear message that unless nuclear weapons were abolished, Godzilla would return.

They weren't and he did, at a rate of once a year from 1962 to 1975.

That's when declining popularity put him in deep sleep until his revival in the 1984 "Godzilla," which packaged an anti-nuclear message with its monster mania.

Then in 1995, Toho made "Godzilla vs. Destroyer," in which the monster became a walking nuclear bomb who had to be killed without destroying the earth.

Even as that "final" film was being made, Toho admitted Godzilla might well return in response to popular demand.

Back for his 23rd appearance, Godzilla this time clashes with a mysterious giant spaceship that has been reactivated after crea-

ture to pursue new musical ventures," he said in a statement Thursday. The departure "was both mutual and amicable."

"I had a great time singing with the band and I wish Eddie (Van Halen), Alex (Van Halen) and Michael (Anthony) all the best," Cherone said.

Cherone, 38, joined Van Halen in 1996 after a stint in the band Extreme. He replaced Sammy Hagar, who became the lead singer after David Lee Roth quit in 1985 to pursue a solo career.

O'Connor on mend after tissue surgery

Carroll O'Connor is on the mend after having surgery to repair scar tissue.

O'Connor, 75, has been hospitalized at St. John's Health Center in Los Angeles since Oct. 6 for surgery to correct scar tissue from an earlier gallbladder operation, said hospital spokeswoman Lindi Funston.

"The healing process has been slow; however, Mr. O'Connor is doing well and is expected to go home" soon, Funston said.

O'Connor's wife, Nancy, joined him in the same hospital suite last Saturday. She was being treated with antibiotics for a wound that she suffered after falling from a ladder.

Stern's breakup brings Gifford note

The breakup of Howard Stern's 21-year marriage led his arch-nemesis, Kathie Lee Gifford, to send him a sympathetic note. Guess what happened next.

"I was laughing as I read it," Stern told his radio audience on Wednesday. "It's a really, really nice note, very

joint pandas from China.

The furry, black-and-white animals were unloaded from two brown United Parcel Service trucks after flying halfway around the world on a special UPS plane.

Lun-Lun and Yang-Yang, both 2 years old, will be quarantined until Nov. 20, when they go on display at Zoo Atlanta in a new, \$7 million habitat. They will stay in Atlanta for 10 years as part of a project to learn why the endangered animals show little interest in mating while in captivity.

With their arrival, the U.S. panda population is now six. The National Zoo in Washington has one, and the San Diego Zoo has three, including a cub born Aug. 21.

When the pandas arrived at the zoo, they were in no hurry to move into their new home. It took about an hour to coax them out of the bamboo-lined crates in which they had lived for nearly three days while in transit.

"This is a completely new place for them," said Rebecca Snyder, a Zoo Atlanta researcher who has spent the last two years studying Lun-Lun and Yang-Yang in China. "There are new smells and new surroundings, and they are used to being taken care of. But they'll

Storm may recovery of

Hill Air Force Base provides radar data, B.L.

New York Times News Service

NEWPORT NAVAL STATION, R.I. — Searching through water so deep and murky that no sunlight reaches the sea floor, operators of Deep Drone, a remote-controlled submarine tethered to a Navy salvage ship, closed in on Friday on two pinging sounds that they hope will lead them to the two flight